

Pending:

Feinstein Amendment No. 2405, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the Indian nuclear tests.

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Brownback Amendment No. 2407 (to Amendment No. 2405), to repeal a restriction on the provision of certain assistance and other transfers to Pakistan.

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Universal Tobacco Settlement Act: A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1415, to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, and to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on the cloture motion will occur on Monday, May 18, 1998.

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American Competitiveness Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of S. 1723, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to assist the United States to remain competitive by increasing the access of the United States firms and institutions of higher education to skilled personnel and by expanding educational and training opportunities for American students and workers, on Monday, May 18, 1998.

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Appointments:

National Skill Standards Board: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to P.L. 103-227, appointed the following individuals to the National Skill Standards Board: Jon A. Reeves, of Mississippi, Ronald K. Robinson, of Mississippi, and Earline N. Ashley, of Mississippi.

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North Atlantic Assembly: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1928a-1928d, as amended, appointed Senator Hutchinson as a member of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly during the Second Session of the 105th Congress, to be held in Barcelona, Spain, May 22-27, 1998.

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Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Paul J. Hoeper, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

William P. Dimitrouleas, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Stephan P. Mickle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida.

Sue Bailey, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

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Messages From the House:

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Measures Referred:

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Petitions:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

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Statements on Introduced Bills:

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Authority for Committees:

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Additional Statements:

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Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—137)

Pages S4879-80, S4894

Adjournment: Senate adjourned for 1 minute during today's proceedings, thus changing the legislative day.

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Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:41 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 15, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4925-26.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee held hearings to examine the Department of Agriculture information technology systems to ensure compliance with Year 2000 deadline, receiving testimony from Marsha Pyle Martin, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration; Brooksley Born, Chairperson, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Anne F. Thomson Reed, Chief Information Officer, Department of Agriculture; Joel C. Willemsen, Director, Civil Agencies Information Systems, Accounting and Information Management Division, General Accounting Office; Peter de Jager, de Jager and Company, Ltd., Toronto, Canada; and Irene Dec, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Roseland, New Jersey.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

SUBCOMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Committee completed its review of subcommittee 302(b) allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority allocated to the committee in S. Con. Res. 86, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

ERISA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies concluded hearings to examine the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) preemption, focusing on remedies for denied or delayed health claims, after receiving testimony from Olena Berg, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Pension and Welfare Benefits; Evan Miller, Hogan & Hartson, on behalf of the Association of Private Pension, and Ronald F. Pollack, Families USA Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.; and Mark Smith, AMP Incorporated, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers.

APPROPRIATIONS—BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government concluded hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of the Treasury, focusing on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' Gang Resistance, Education and Training program, after receiving testimony from John W. Magaw, Director, and Gale Rossides, Assistant Director for Training and Professional Development, both of the Bureau of ATF, Department of the Treasury; Edward N. Kondracki, La Crosse Police Department, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Cuyler Windham, Cumberland County Police Department, Fayetteville, North Carolina; and numerous public witnesses.

NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation concluded hearings on S. 1693, to improve state-of-the-art protection and interpretation to NPS sources, focusing on Title IX, Commercial Filming in National Parks, and Title X, Capital Improvement Project Bond Demonstration Program, and S. 1614, to require a permit for the making of a motion picture, television program, or other forms of commercial visual depiction in a unit of the National Park System or National Wildlife Refuge System, after receiving testimony from Representative Hefley; Destry Jarvis, Assistant Director for External Affairs, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Albert C. Eisenberg, National Parks and Conservation Association, Jack Valenti, Motion Picture Association of America, Jeff Perlman, American Advertising Federation, and Daniel L. Jaffe, Association of National Advertisers, Inc., all of Washington, D.C.; Matthew Miller, Association of Independent Commercial Producers, Inc., and Alfred R. Califano, OneSuch Films, both of New York, New York; Leigh von der Esch, State of Utah Film Commission,

Salt Lake City; and Victor S. Perlman, American Society of Media Photographers, Princeton Junction, New Jersey.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1415, to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, and to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, with amendments.

CHINA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee held hearings to examine United States interests at the forthcoming U.S.-China summit to be held in June, receiving testimony from Stanley O. Roth, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Robert Kagan, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Mike Jendrzeczyk, Human Rights Watch/Asia Division, and Robert A. Kapp, United States-China Business Council, all of Washington, D.C.; and Arthur Waldron, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs concluded hearings to examine United States policy toward Iran, after receiving testimony from Martin S. Indyk, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; Richard W. Murphy, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York; and Michael Eisenstadt, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Steven Emerson, both of Washington, D.C.

SAFETY OF FOOD IMPORTS

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held hearings to examine the adequacy of procedures and systems used by the Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration to oversee the safety of food imported into the United States, receiving testimony from Robert E. Robertson, Associate Director, Food and Agriculture Issues, Resources, Community, and Economic Development Division, General Accounting Office; Reggie Jang, San Francisco, California, former Consumer Safety Inspector, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Resources; and Mary Ellen Camire, University of Maine, Orono.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded hearings on the nominations of Rosemary S. Pooler and Robert D. Sack, both of New York, each to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Victoria A. Roberts, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Richard W. Roberts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Ronnie L. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf. Ms. Roberts was introduced by Senators Levin and Abraham and Representative Upton, Mr. Roberts was introduced by District of Columbia Delegate Norton, and Mr. White was introduced by Senator Bond and Representative Clay.

NOMINATION

Committee on Small Business: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Fred P. Hochberg, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Prior to this action, committee concluded hearings on the nomination of Mr. Hochberg, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf. Testimony was also received on the nominee from Senator D'Amato; Representative Forbes; and Ada Alvarez, Administrator, Small Business Administration.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 3865–3889; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 119, H. Con. Res. 277, and H. Res. 431–434 and 437–439, were introduced.

Pages H3311–12

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H. Res. 435, providing for consideration of H.R. 3616, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999 (H. Doc. 105–535); and

H. Res. 436, providing for consideration of H. Res. 432, Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives Concerning the President's Assertion of Executive Privilege and providing for consideration of H. Res. 437, Calling Upon the President of the United States to Urge Full Cooperation By His Former Political Appointees and Friends and their Associates with Congressional Investigations (H. Doc. 105–536).

Pages H3310–11

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Ney to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H3259

Motion To Adjourn: Rejected the Serrano motion to adjourn by a ye and nay vote of 15 yeas to 379 nays, with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 152.

Pages H3259–69

Question of Privilege of the House: The Chair ruled that H. Res. 431, relating to a question of the

privileges of the House did constitute a question of privilege and was in order.

Pages H3260–61

Subsequently, agreed to the Arney motion to table the resolution by a recorded vote of 223 yeas to 196 noes, Roll No. 153.

Page H3261

Freedom From Religious Persecution Act of 1998: The House passed H.R. 2431, to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution by ye and nay vote of 375 yeas to 41 nays with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 155.

Pages H3271–94

Agreed To:

The Brady amendment that establishes provisions to promote religious freedom including an internet site, training for foreign service officers, equal access to U.S. missions abroad for conducting religious activities, international broadcasting and exchanges; and foreign service awards for promotion of internationally recognized human rights; creates a five member commission on international religious persecution composed of a Director, two Senators and two Members of the House of Representatives; and provides limited contract sanctity for transactions involving the Trade and Development Agency or the Export Import Bank;

Pages H3288–90

The Hastings of Florida amendment that permits the Director of the Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, in consultation with the Secretary of State to make policy recommendations to the President to promote and develop legal protections and